DC
No. 16
OCT 2007
$2.25 US $2.75 CAN

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CN

CARTOON NETWORK™ ACTION PACK!

BEN 10™

TRAVIS DECARLO

CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR™

SAMURAI JACK™

DIRECT SALES
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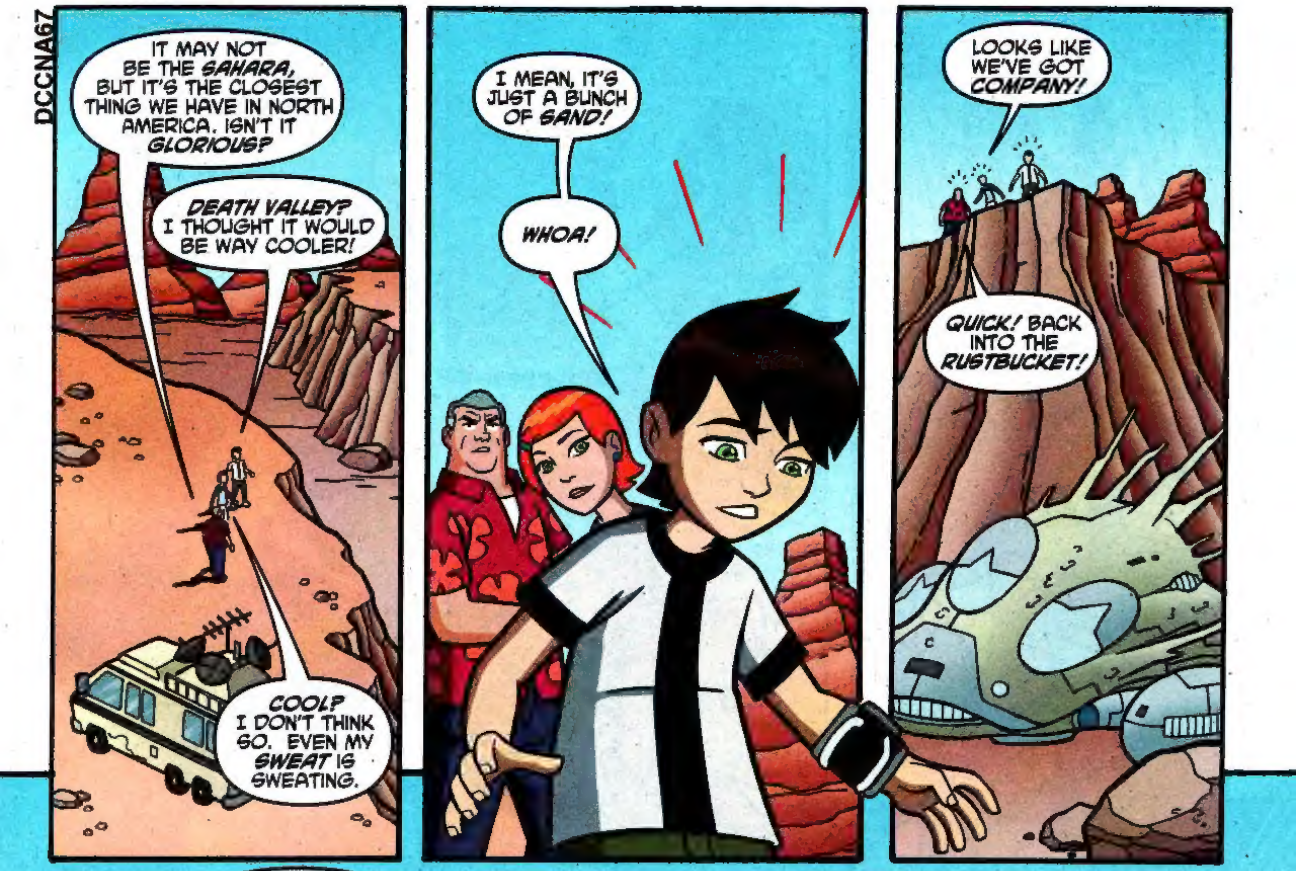
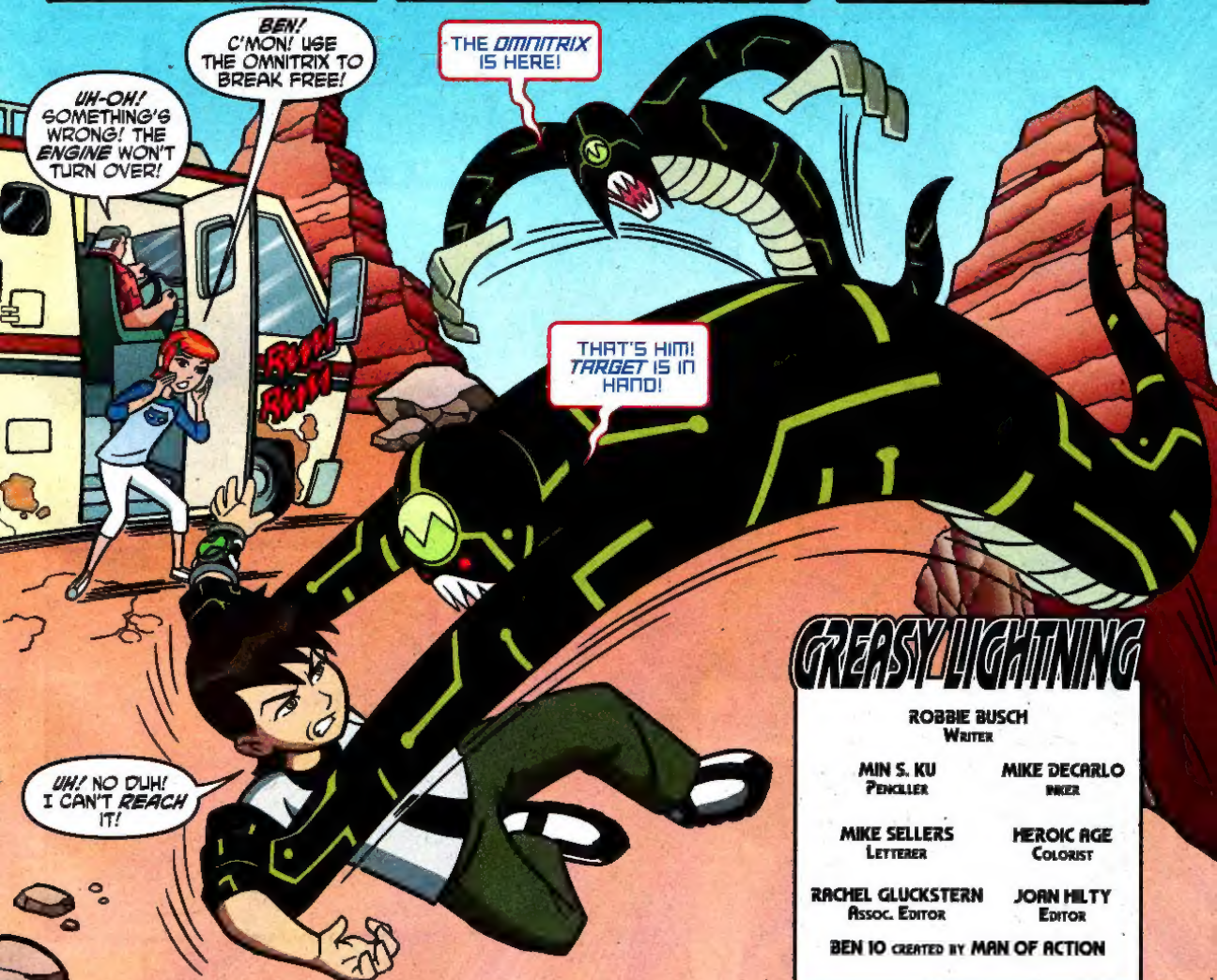

IT MAY NOT BE THE SAHARA, BUT IT'S THE CLOSEST THING WE HAVE IN NORTH AMERICA. ISN'T IT GLORIOUS?
DEATH VALLEY? I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WAY COOLER!
COOL? I DON'T THINK SO. EVEN MY SWEAT IS SWEATING.
I MEAN, IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF SAND!
WHOA!
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
QUICK! BACK INTO THE RUSTBUCKET!


BEN! C'MON! USE THE OMNITRIX TO BREAK FREE!
UH-OH! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THE ENGINE WON'T TURN OVER!
THE OMNITRIX IS HERE!
THAT'S HIM! TARGET IS IN HAND!
UH! NO DUH! I CAN'T REACH IT!

GREASY LIGHTNING

ROBBIE BUSCH
Writer

MIN S. KU
Penciller

MIKE DECARLO
Inker

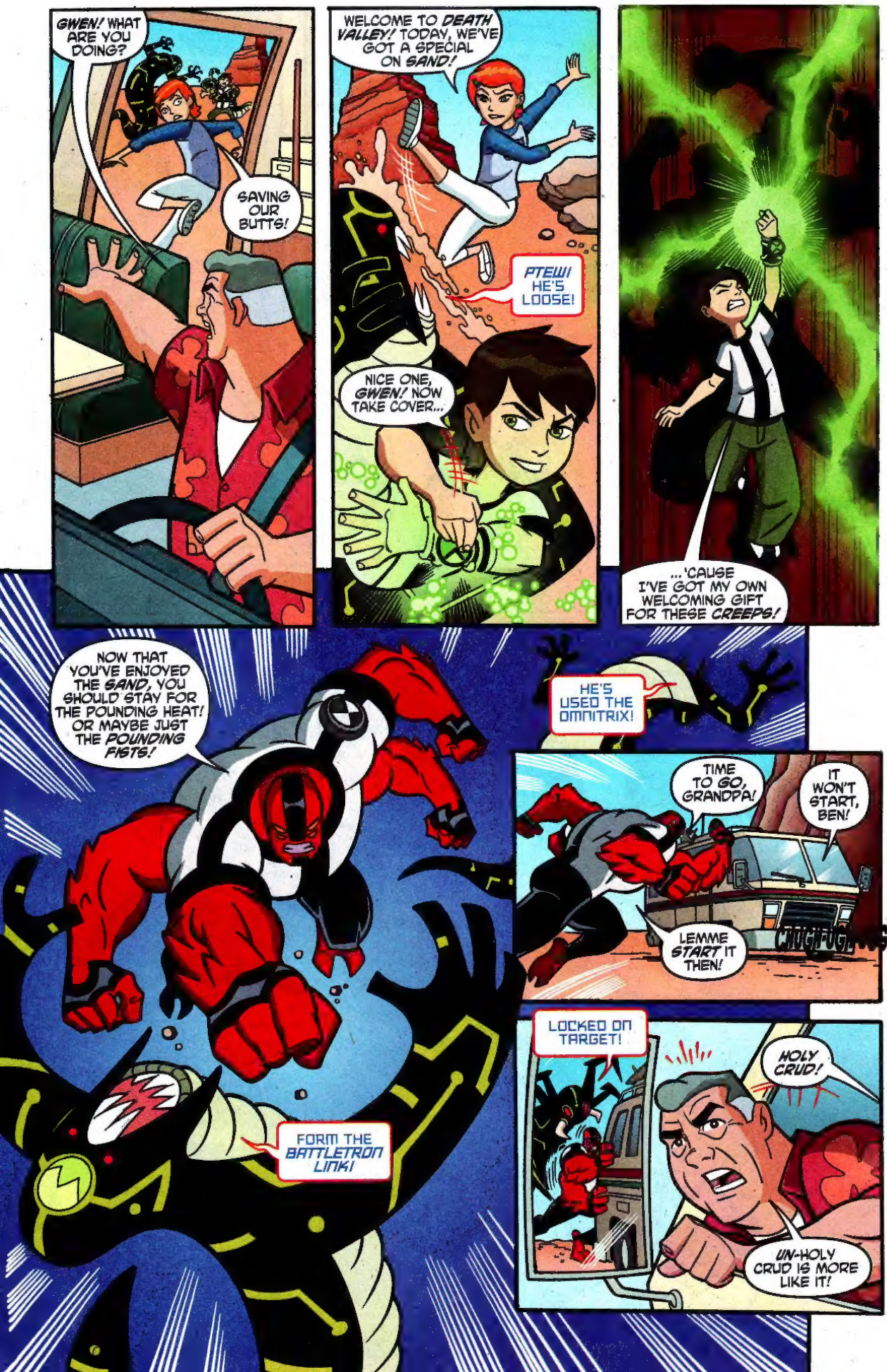
MIKE SELLERS
Letterer

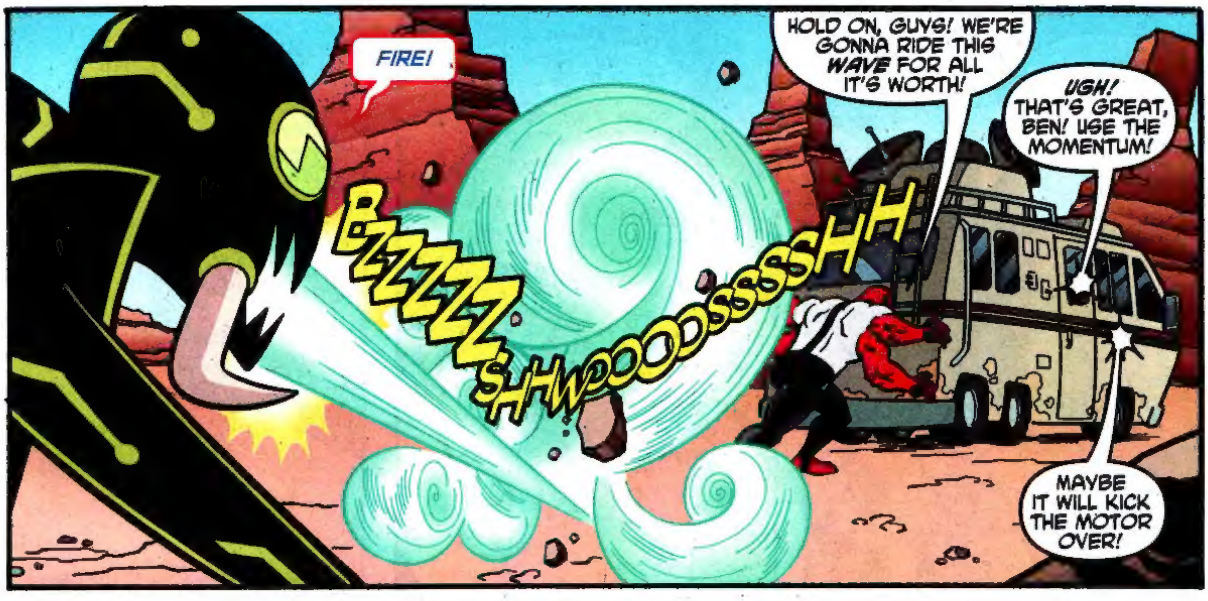
HEROIC AGE
Colorist

RACHEL GLUCKSTERN
Assoc. Editor

JOAN HILTY
Editor

BEN 10 created by MAN OF ACTION


GWEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SAVING OUR BUTTS!
WELCOME TO DEATH VALLEY! TODAY, WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL ON SAND!
PTEW! HE'S LOOSE!
NICE ONE, GWEN! NOW TAKE COVER...
... 'CAUSE I'VE GOT MY OWN WELCOMING GIFT FOR THESE CREEPS!
NOW THAT YOU'VE ENJOYED THE SAND, YOU SHOULD STAY FOR THE POUNDING HEAT! OR MAYBE JUST THE POUNDING FISTS!
HE'S USED THE OMNITRIX!
TIME TO GO, GRANDPA!
IT WON'T START, BEN!
LEMME START IT THEN!
CHUGA-CHUGA-CHUGGG
LOCKED ON TARGET!
HOLY CRUD!
UN-HOLY CRUD IS MORE LIKE IT!
FORM THE BATTLETRON LINK!


FIRE!
BZZZZZ
SHWOOOSSSSHH
HOLD ON, GUYS! WE'RE GONNA RIDE THIS WAVE FOR ALL IT'S WORTH!
UGH! THAT'S GREAT, BEN! USE THE MOMENTUM!
MAYBE IT WILL KICK THE MOTOR OVER!

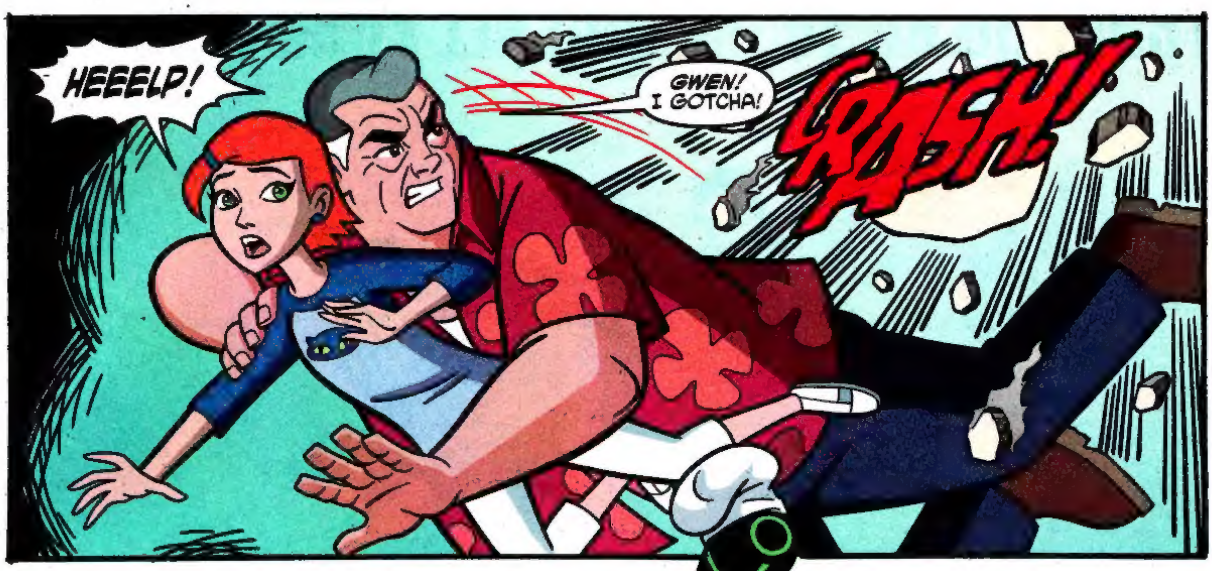
WHOOOO!
IT WORKED!
GREAT! NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF DEATH VALLEY...
KRROOOOOOM

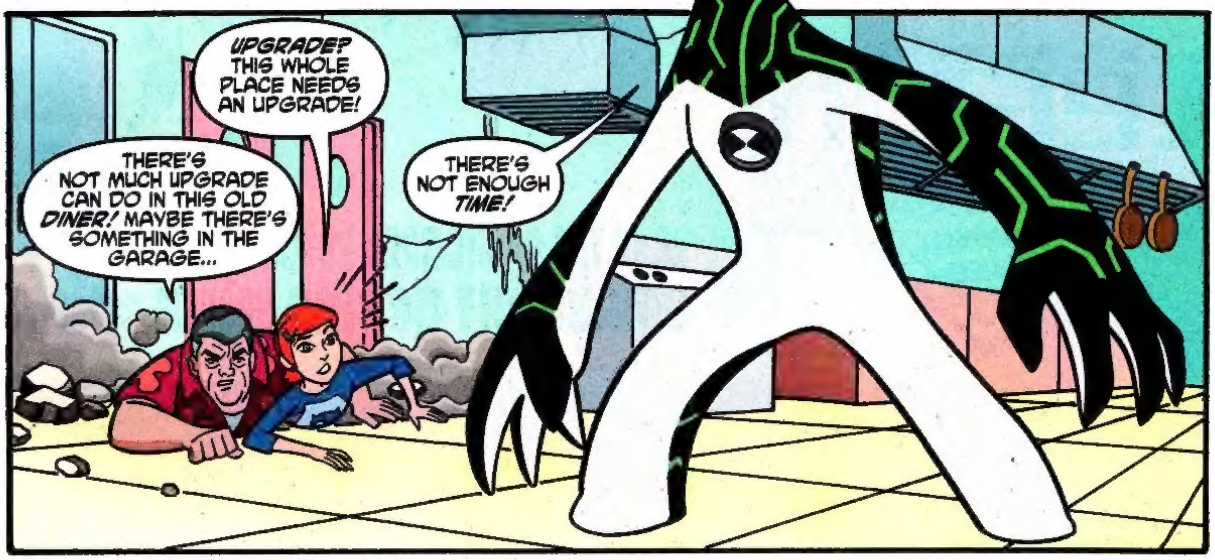
...BEFORE ITS NAME STICKS TO US LIKE THE SAND IN MY HAIR!

GRANDPA! THEY'RE STILL COMING!
Diners TRUCK STOP
THE ENGINE IS OVERHEATING! I'VE GOT TO PULL INTO THIS TRUCK STOP!

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIX UP THE RUSTBUCKET IN HERE.
I DON'T KNOW; A LOT OF THIS EQUIPMENT IS TOTALLY RUSTED.
I'M STARVING. LET'S SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY FOOD LEFT NEXT DOOR.

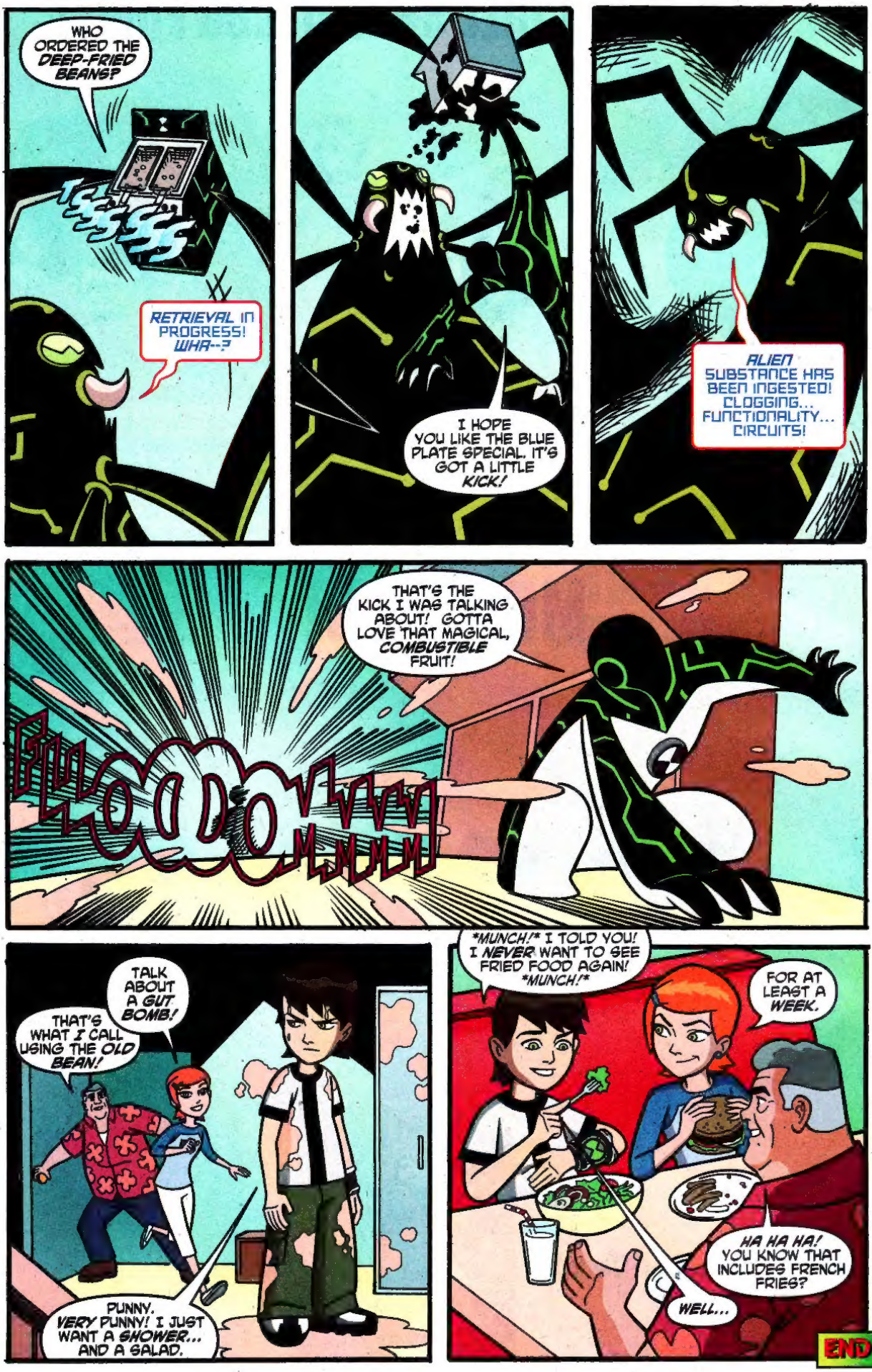
I DOUBT THE FOOD IS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THIS.
YEESH! THERE'S GOTTA BE A BAG OF CHIPS OR SOMETHING.
GO CHECK IT OUT, BUT BE CAREFUL. I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE MOTOR.
THOSE DOUGHNUTS LOOK LIKE FOSSILS. BUT THERE ARE SOME BAGS OF CHIPS BACK HERE.
HMMM...LOTS OF CANS OF BEANS.
AN ORDER OF MAGICAL FRUIT FOR TABLE 23!
HA! THANKS, CHEF TOOT!
HERE! TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE SAFER!
THANKS! OOOPS!
ZESTY Chips
RRRUUUUMMMBBBLLLEEE
UH-OH! I-I-I G-G-GUESS THEY F-F-FOUND US!
BEN! TIME TO--
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YA!


HEEELP!
GWEN! I GOTCHA!
CRASH!

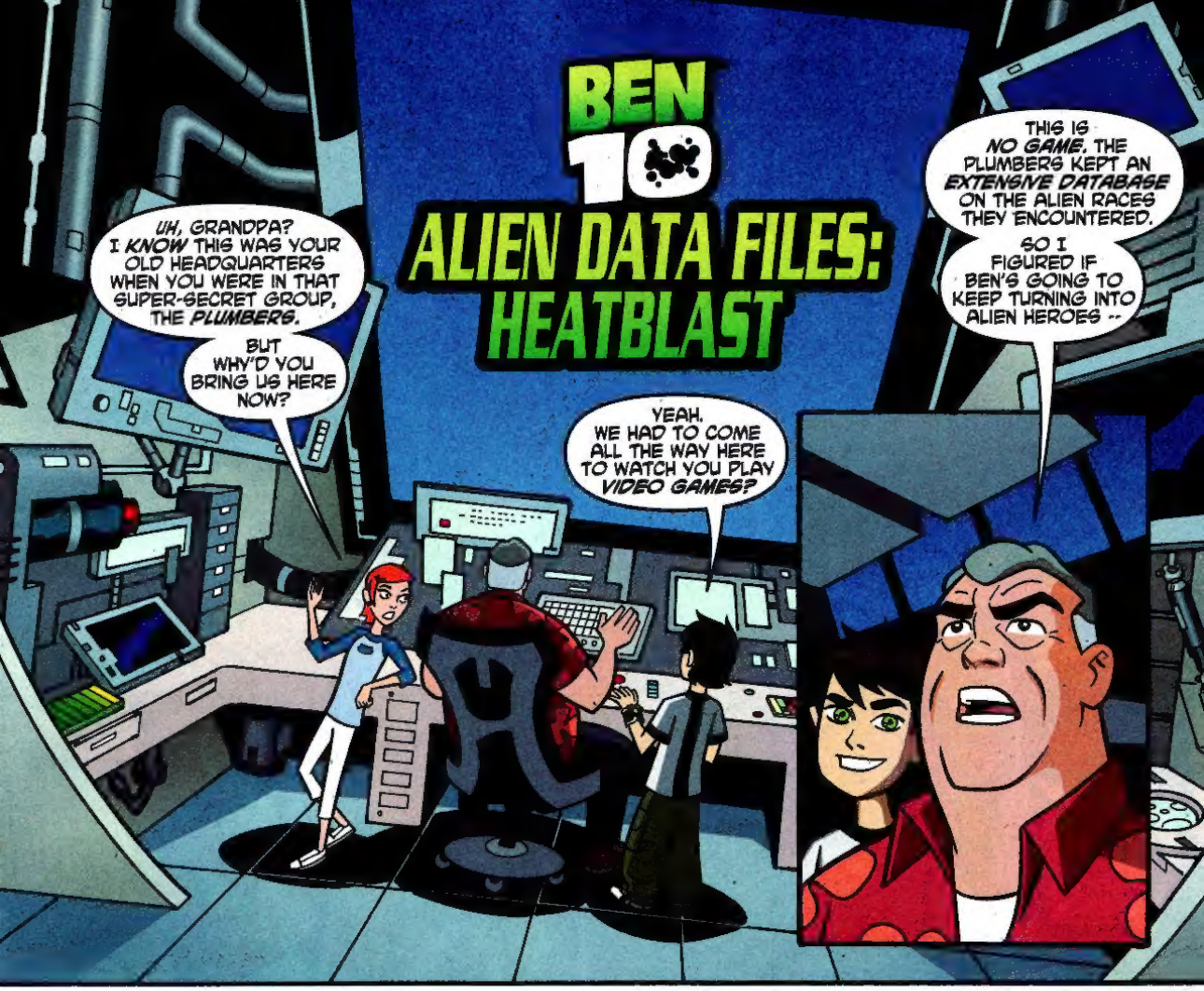

UPGRADE? THIS WHOLE PLACE NEEDS AN UPGRADE!
THERE'S NOT MUCH UPGRADE CAN DO IN THIS OLD DINER! MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE GARAGE...
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME!

BOOOM
GET BACK TO THE RUSTBUCKET, GUYS! I'VE GOT AN IDEA ABOUT THIS GREASY SPOON!

TARGET LOCATED!
YOU WANT THE OMNITRIX? COME AND GET IT!


WHO ORDERED THE DEEP-FRIED BEANS?
RETRIEVAL IN PROGRESS! WHA--?
I HOPE YOU LIKE THE BLUE PLATE SPECIAL. IT'S GOT A LITTLE KICK!
ALIEN SUBSTANCE HAS BEEN INGESTED! CLOGGING... FUNCTIONALITY... CIRCUITS!
THAT'S THE KICK I WAS TALKING ABOUT! GOTTA LOVE THAT MAGICAL, COMBUSTIBLE FRUIT!
BLOOO

BEN 10
ALIEN DATA FILES: HEATBLAST


UH, GRANDPA? I KNOW THIS WAS YOUR OLD HEADQUARTERS WHEN YOU WERE IN THAT SUPER-SECRET GROUP, THE PLUMBERS.
BUT WHY'D YOU BRING US HERE NOW?
YEAH. WE HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO WATCH YOU PLAY VIDEO GAMES?
THIS IS NO GAME. THE PLUMBERS KEPT AN EXTENSIVE DATABASE ON THE ALIEN RACES THEY ENCOUNTERED.
SO I FIGURED IF BEN'S GOING TO KEEP TURNING INTO ALIEN HEROES --

CLOSE. ACTUALLY, IT'S A MEMBER OF HEATBLAST'S ALIEN RACE, THE PYRONITES.
PYRONITES ARE NATIVE TO THE SEMI-SOLID STAR PYROS.
TO ADAPT TO THE EXTREME HEAT OF THEIR HOMEWORLD, PYRONITES HAVE EVOLVED INTO CREATURES OF LIVING FLAME.

SHOLLY FISCH
Writer

ETHEN BEAVERS
Penciller

MIKE DECARLO
Inker

MIKE SELLERS
Letterer

HEROIC AGE
Colorist

RACHEL GLUCKSTERN
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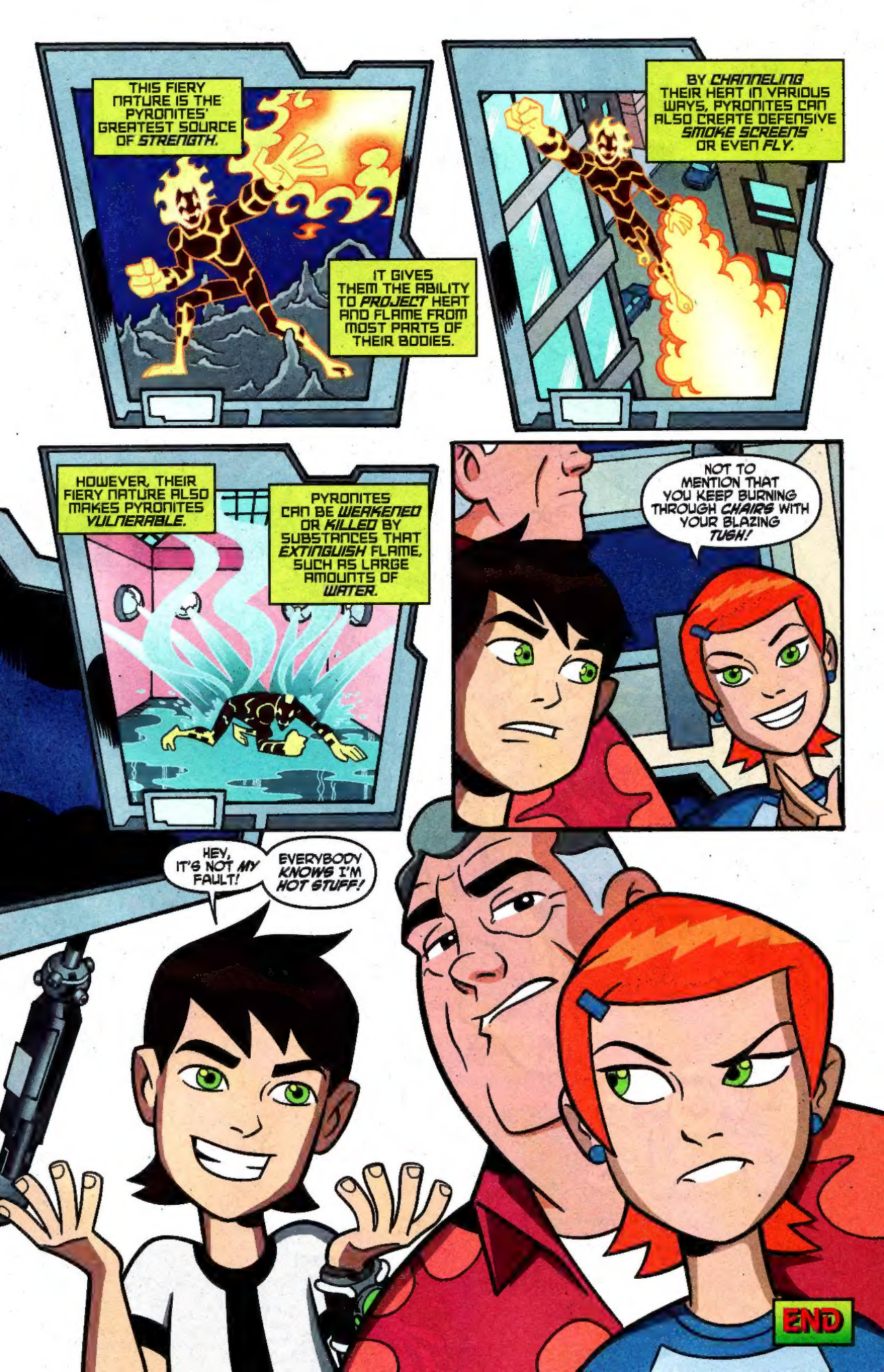
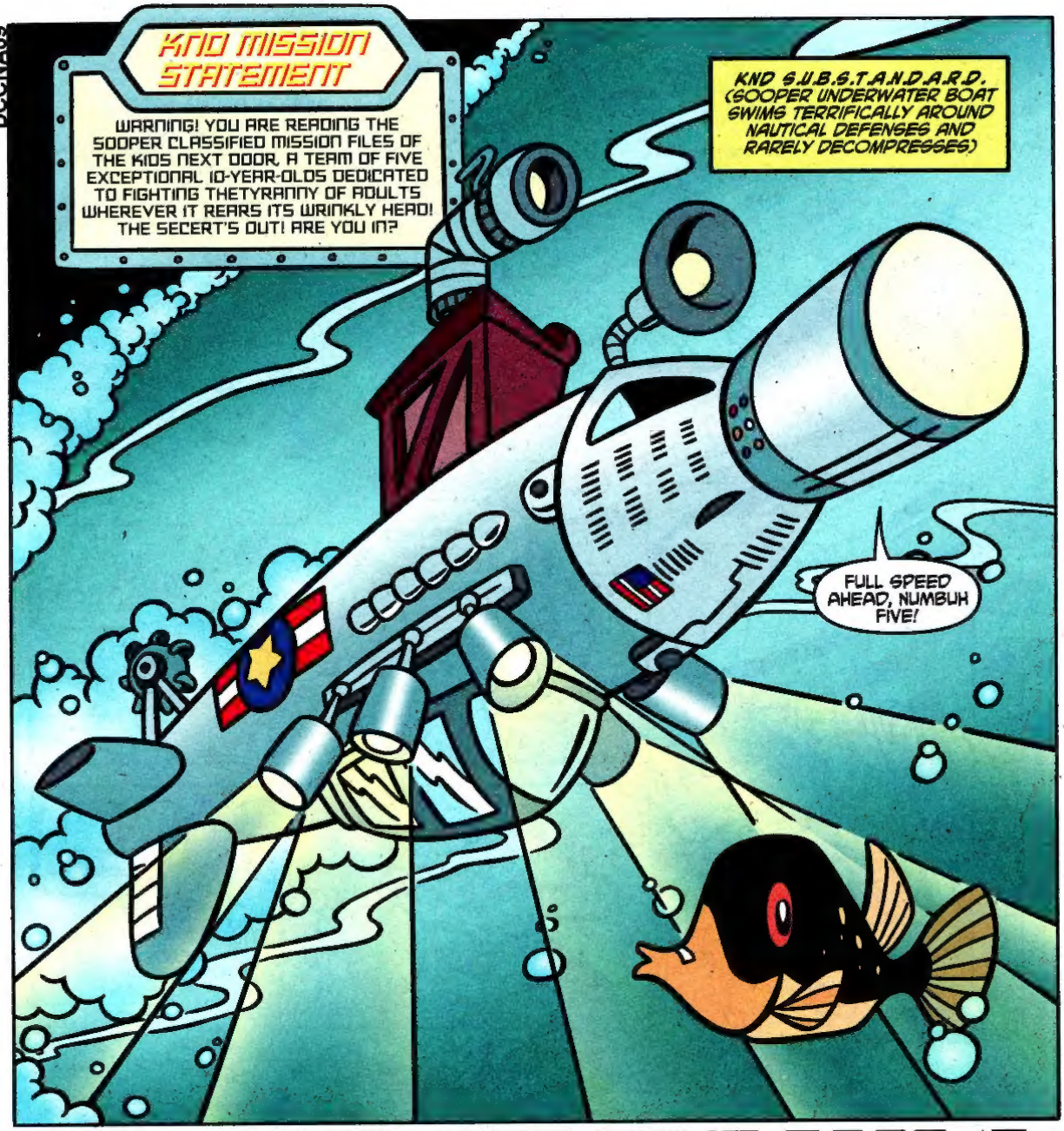

THIS FIERY NATURE IS THE PYRONITES' GREATEST SOURCE OF STRENGTH.
IT GIVES THEM THE ABILITY TO PROJECT HEAT AND FLAME FROM MOST PARTS OF THEIR BODIES.
BY CHANNELING THEIR HEAT IN VARIOUS WAYS, PYRONITES CAN ALSO CREATE DEFENSIVE SMOKE SCREENS OR EVEN FLY.
HOWEVER, THEIR FIERY NATURE ALSO MAKES PYRONITES VULNERABLE.
PYRONITES CAN BE WEAKENED OR KILLED BY SUBSTANCES THAT EXTINGUISH FLAME, SUCH AS LARGE AMOUNTS OF WATER.
NOT TO MENTION THAT YOU KEEP BURNING THROUGH CHAIRS WITH YOUR BLAZING TUSH!
HEY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
EVERYBODY KNOWS I'M HOT STUFF!
END

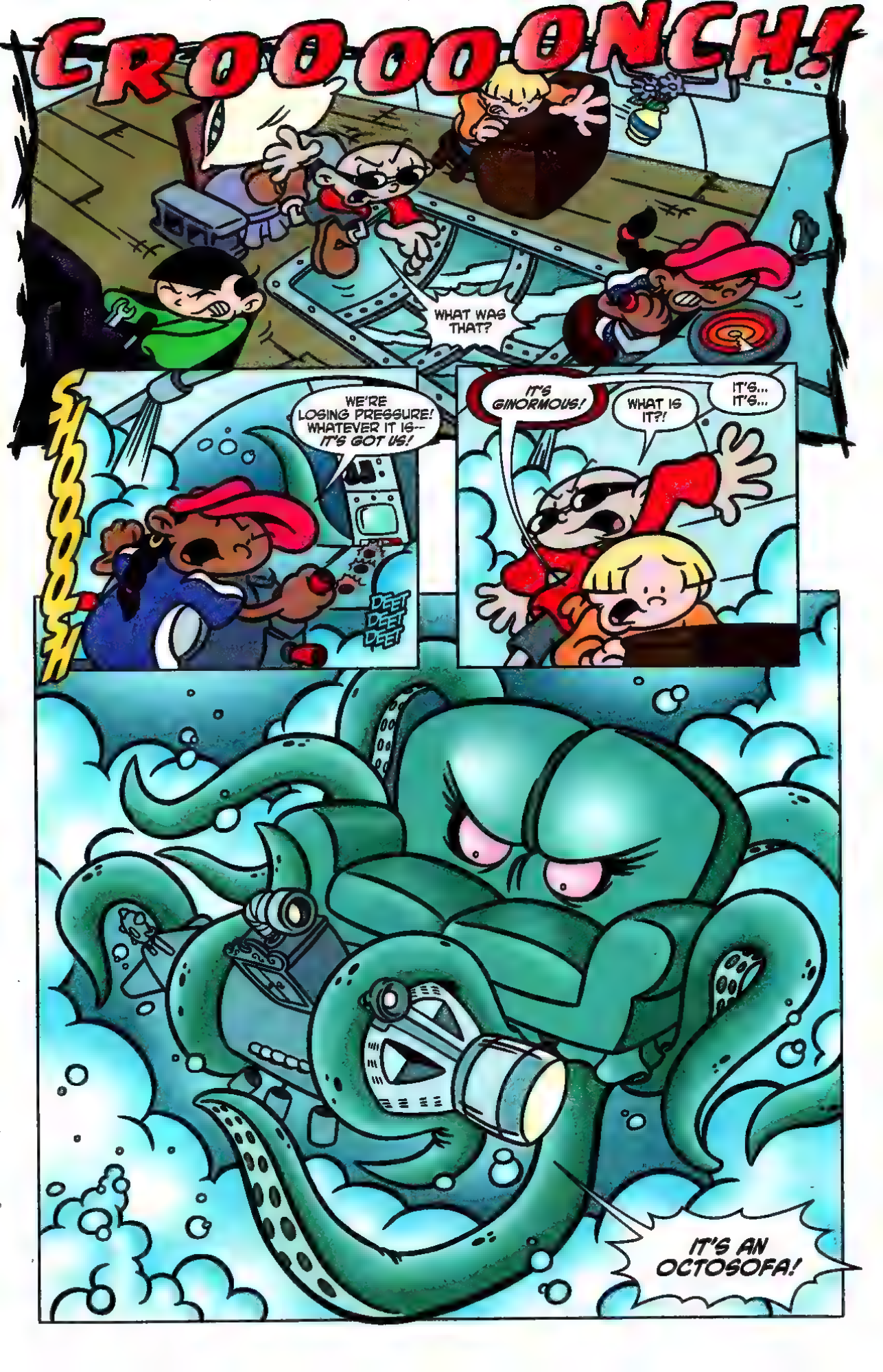

KND MISSION STATEMENT
WARNING! YOU ARE READING THE SOOPER CLASSIFIED MISSION FILES OF THE KIDS NEXT DOOR, A TEAM OF FIVE EXCEPTIONAL 10-YEAR-OLDS DEDICATED TO FIGHTING THETYRANNY OF ADULTS WHEREVER IT REARS ITS WRINKLY HEAD! THE SECERT'S OUT! ARE YOU IN?
KND S.U.B.S.T.A.N.D.A.R.D. (SOOPER UNDERWATER BOAT SWIMS TERRIFICALLY AROUND NAUTICAL DEFENSES AND RARELY DECOMPRESSES)
FULL SPEED AHEAD, NUMBUH FIVE!

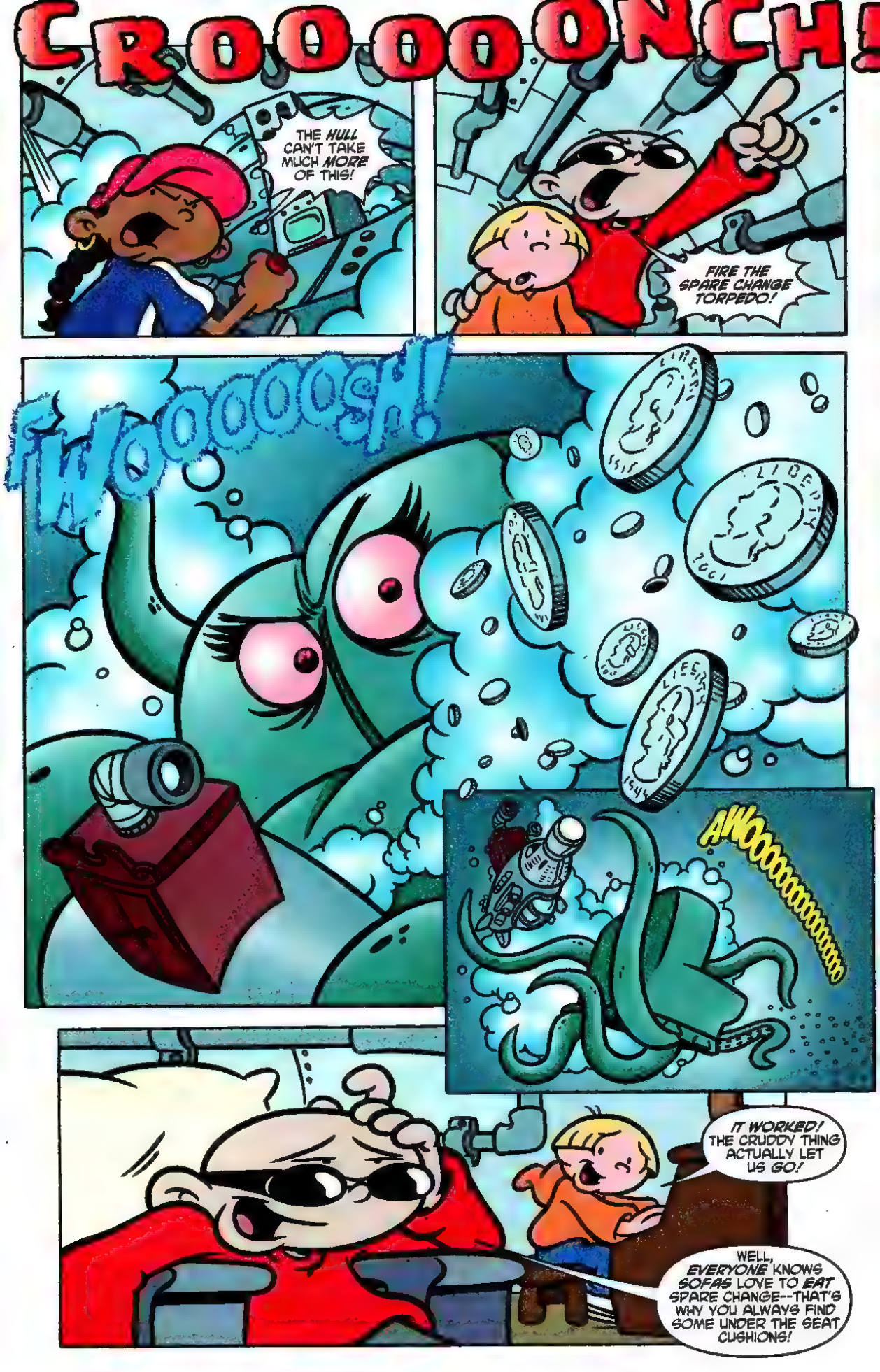
CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR IN

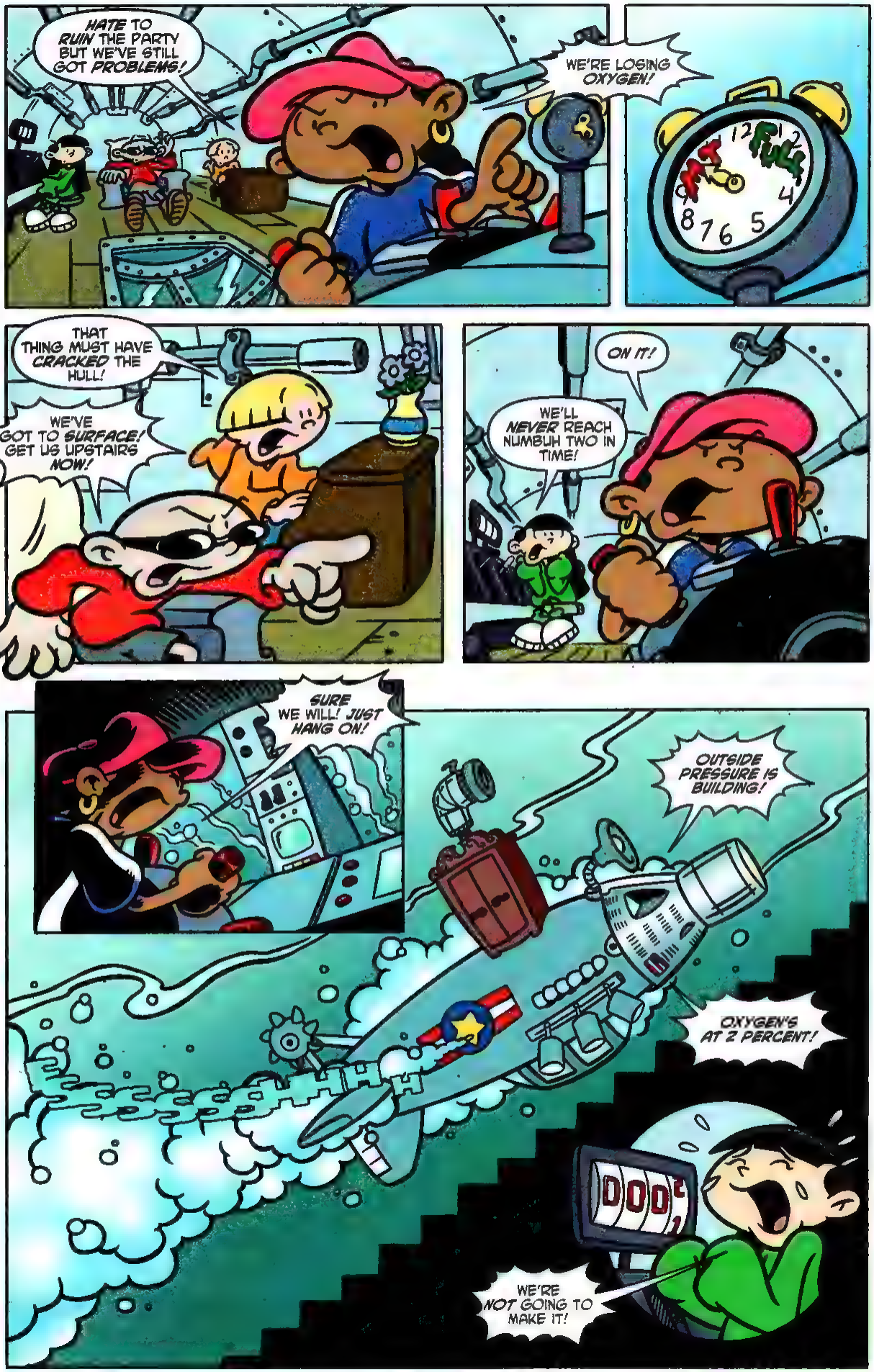
OPERATION: O.V.E.R.F.L.O.W.

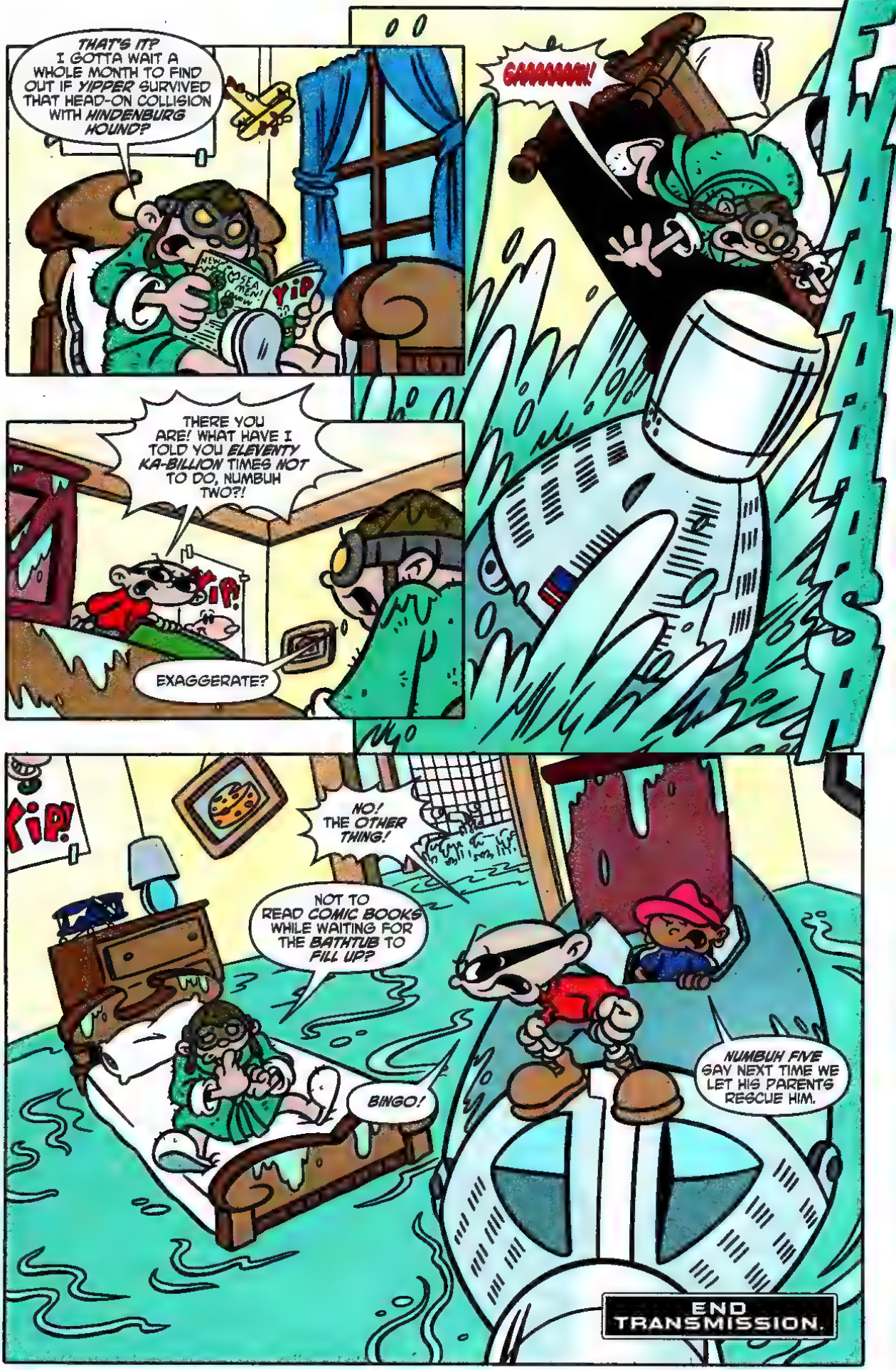
(OCEANIC VOYAGE'S EMERGENCY RESCUE FINDING LOST OPERATIVE'S WHEREABOUTS)

IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND NUMBUH TWO, WE'VE GOT TO DO IT FAST!
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
YEAH! ANOTHER COUPLE MINUTES AND HE'LL DROWN!
AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO BREATHE!
SIGH...
HEADS UP, PEOPLE! I THINK I FOUND HIM!
BUT I'M PICKING UP SOMETHING BIG NEARBY!
WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, STEER CLEAR OF IT, NUMBUH FIVE! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY--

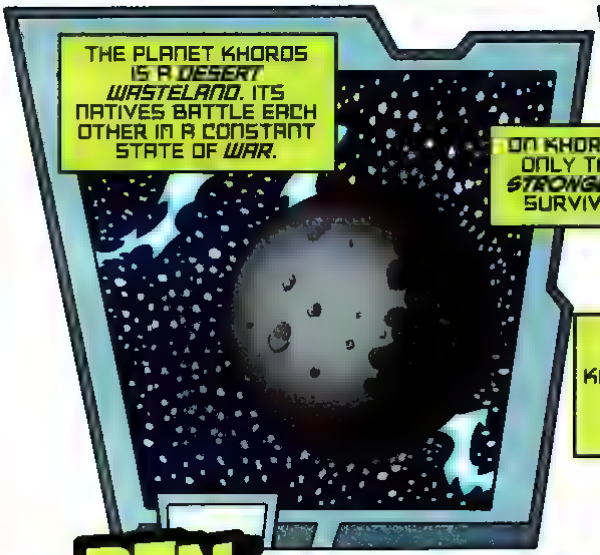

CROOOONCH!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WE'RE LOSING PRESSURE! WHATEVER IT IS-- IT'S GOT US!
DEE! DEE! DEE!
IT'S GINORMOUS!
WHAT IS IT?!
IT'S... IT'S...
IT'S AN OCTOSOFA!

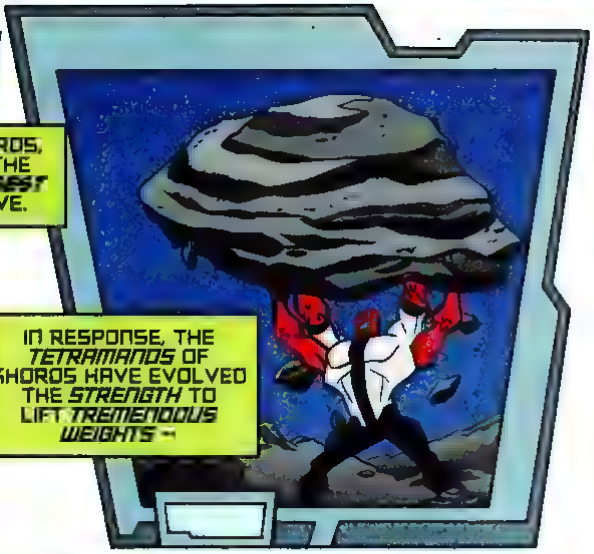

CROOOONCH!
THE HULL CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!
FIRE THE SPARE CHANGE TORPEDO!
Whoaaaaaaaaash!
AWOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
IT WORKED! THE CRUDDY THING ACTUALLY LET US GO!
WELL, EVERYONE KNOWS SOFAS LOVE TO EAT SPARE CHANGE--THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS FIND SOME UNDER THE SEAT CUSHIONS!


HATE TO RUIN THE PARTY BUT WE'VE STILL GOT PROBLEMS!
WE'RE LOSING OXYGEN!
FULL
THAT THING MUST HAVE CRACKED THE HULL!
WE'VE GOT TO SURFACE! GET US UPSTAIRS NOW!
ON IT!
WE'LL NEVER REACH NUMBUH TWO IN TIME!
SURE WE WILL! JUST HANG ON!
OUTSIDE PRESSURE IS BUILDING!
OXYGEN'S AT 2 PERCENT!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!


THAT'S IT! I GOTTA WAIT A WHOLE MONTH TO FIND OUT IF YIPPER SURVIVED THAT HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH HINDENBURG HOUND?
YIP
GAAAAAAAH!
THERE YOU ARE! WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU ELEVENTY KA-BILLION TIMES NOT TO DO, NUMBUH TWO?!
YIP!
EXAGGERATE?
YIP!
NO! THE OTHER THING!
NOT TO READ COMIC BOOKS WHILE WAITING FOR THE BATHTUB TO FILL UP?
BINGO!
NUMBUH FIVE SAY NEXT TIME WE LET HIS PARENTS RESCUE HIM.
END TRANSMISSION.

HEY, GRANDPA, CAN WE AT LEAST GET CABLE ON THIS THING?
BEN! THIS IS SERIOUS.
YEAH, DOOFUS! IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP TURNING INTO ALIEN HEROES, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS FIND OUT WHAT THEY CAN DO!


THE PLANET KHOROS IS A DESERT WASTELAND. ITS NATIVES BATTLE EACH OTHER IN A CONSTANT STATE OF WAR.
ON KHOROS, ONLY THE STRONGEST SURVIVE.



DCCNA70

BEN 10 ALIEN DATA FILES: FOURARMS

SHOLLY FISCH
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MIKE DECARLO
Inker

MIKE SELLERS
Letterer

HEROIC AGE
Colorist

RACHEL GLUCKSTERN
Assoc. Editor

JOAN HILTY
Editor

BEN 10 created by MAN OF ACTION

– OR LEAP HIGH INTO THE AIR.
ALTHOUGH, IN HUMAN TERMS, TETRAMANDS ARE NOT SUPERHUMANLY FAST OR AGILE –
– THEY CAN COMPENSATE WITH A LONG-DISTANCE ATTACK –
– BY CREATING SHOCKWAVES WITH A SUPER-STRONG CLAP!
YEAH! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!
'CAUSE WITH TWICE THE ARMS, I GET THE JOB DONE IN DOUBLE TIME!
REALLY?
I'LL REMEMBER THAT NEXT TIME IT'S TIME TO CLEAN THE VAN!
END

DUDE! IT SMELLS LIKE CHICKENS!
SHUT UP, SHERLOCK! THIS IS A STEALTH MISSION!
HA HA HA! STEALTH! NICE.
WE SHOULD RENAME THE BAND-STEALTH MISSION!
WE'VE ALREADY GOT THE T-SHIRTS PRINTED UP.
YEAH. I GUESS WE GOTTA STAY THE ROTTEN EGGS.
ROTTEN EGGS! SWEET!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET THIS EGG THING OVER WITH. ONE... TWO...
...THREE? YO! SAMURAI DUDE IS LOOKIN' FIERCE!
FIERCE! HA HA HA!
THAT'S THEM!
Y'ALL GOTTA STOP STEALIN' OUR EGGS!
HELP US SAMURAI JACK! STOP THOSE SNOTTY PUNKS!
DOOR
PEACE, LOVE & EGGS
ROBBIE Busch Writer
DAN DAVIS Artist
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HEROIC AGE Colorist
RACHEL GLUCKSTERN Assoc. Editor
JOAN HILTY Editor
SAMURAI JACK created by GENNDY TARTAKOVSKY

ROTTEN EGGS--LET'S DO IT LIKE WE DID AT GILMAN STREET!
DROP THE EGGS, PUNKS.
ONE TWO THREE FOUR!
COUNT US OFF, CLYDE!
I CAN FEEL THE LIGHT! THE PURITY OF THE EGG IS HOLDING THE DEMON AT BAY!
GUG!
GUG!
CRACK!
GUG!
GUG!
I TOLD YOU WE COULD USE AKU'S POWER FOR OUR OWN PUNK ROCK GLORY!
AND THE EGGS WILL KEEP THE DARKNESS IN OUR CONTROL!
SQOOOOM
DUDES! AKU'S POWER IS OPENING THE LOCAL VORTEX!
VORTEX! HA HA HA! SWEET!
NOW WE CAN USE THE VORTEX TO GO BACK IN TIME AND BECOME THE GREATEST BAND IN HISTORY!
AHHH!
WHAT A BUMMER!
TOTALLY! YIPES!
AKU?
AARRRGGHHH!
SPOOOF

TSSSHH!
KRONK!
PING!
FWACK
UGH!
TASTE OUR BOOTS!
HA HA HA HA
WELCOME TO THE TAINTED VORTEX LITTLE SAMURAI! WE WILL HAVE ALL OF ETERNITY TO PLAY NOW!
IT'S CLOSING UP! QUICK!
ROTTEN EGG DUDES! WE'VE GOTTA HOP THAT VORTEX!
AKU? WAIT!
SORRY, PUNKS! YOU SUCK EGGS!
PUNT!
OH NO! AKU'S GIVING US THE ULTIMATE BOOT OF EVIL! AAAAHHH!

SWOOSH
FFOOOOM

HA HA HA! YOU CANNOT BEAT US LITTLE SAMURAI! WE ARE THE ONLY REALITY YOU HAVE NOW! JOIN US! JOIN US! JOIN US!
NEVER... UGH...

C'MON, GUYS, WE HAVE TO SAVE SAMURAI JACK!
YOU STILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF OUR EGGS INSIDE YOU!
WE CAN JOIN TOGETHER AND LET OUR POSITIVE VIBES CREATE A VORTEX OF LOVE!
WHA--? HOW?
LOVE! SWEET!

OW! HEY! WOW! WHAT IS THAT HORRID SOUND?

NOOOO! THAT CURSED SONG! I'LL GET YOU NEXT TIME, SAMURAI JACK...
...KU...MBAAAA... YAAAAA...

THANK YOU, SAMURAI JACK! YOU HAVE SAVED THE FARM! WE ARE TEACHING THE PUNKS HOW TO TURN THEIR GUITARS INTO PLOWS! PEACE, MY BROTHER!
OKAY.
END

Send your letters today:

JOHNNY DC SAYS:

LET THE MAIL BEGIN:

A STRONG VOICE

What do BEN 10, FOSTER'S HOME FOR IMAGINARY FRIENDS, SCOOBY-DOO, THE BATMAN, TEEN TITANS, THE POWERPUFF GIRLS, THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUNIPER LEE, CODENAME: KIDS NEXT DOOR, and CAMP LAZLO have in common? Well, yes, they're all cartoons. And, yes, they all appear in my Johnny DC comic books. But that's not what I'm going for.

They all include Tara Strong as one of the voice actors! Ms. Strong gives the voice behind Ben himself, also plays Mushi Sanban (the sister of Numbuh 3), and was Vicky Vale in the BATMAN VS. DRACULA movie. I was surprised that she plays a boy in BEN 10, but was REALLY surprised to learn that she was the voice of both the cheerful Bubbles in THE POWERPUFF GIRLS and the gloomy Raven in TEEN TITANS. (I guess that's why they call it "acting.")

Acting and recording the voices is one of the middle steps in animation. The voice actors read from the script before the drawings are animated. As Tara describes it, "We all sit in front of our mics [microphones] and our scripts are on music stands. Then the silliness begins!"

Silliness? Well, if you ask Ms. Strong which character she feels she is most like, she'll say, "I am Bubbles." She tells a story about a POWERPUFF GIRLS recording session: "I had to make squirrel noises as Bubbles and without realizing it, I was making the face and putting my fingers up to my face to look like a squirrel and everyone made fun of me for the rest of the day."

June Foray (who voiced Tweety Bird's "Granny" and a bunch of Looney Tune witches) told a similar story: "Most of the time was taken up kidding around and laughing and having a good time. And then Jay [the producer] would say, 'Well, I guess we better start recording.'"

So, does that mean the work is easy? No!

Take one of the most famous voice actors, Mel Blanc. He voiced most of the Looney Tunes characters for years and years! After making an X-ray of Blanc's throat, a doctor said that those muscles were so developed, they reminded him of the famous opera star Enrico Caruso.

Tara Strong works a lot ("I usually have ten different animation projects going at a time") and she's always studying ("I do try to give reality to the younger children voices and I'm constantly observing and listening to small children..."). She won an Interactive Achievement Award from the Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences (a videogame association) in 2004 for "Outstanding Achievement in Character Performance - Female," tying with Jada Pinkett Smith.

To young people interested in voice work, Tara recommends, "Start as early as you can. Make tapes of your characters." She should know - she got her first TV job when she was thirteen. Now she has children of her own. She got married in 2000 and has two boys. "My son is old enough to respond to my work. To me, that's what it is all about."

So think about the voice actors the next time you're watching BEN 10 or THE POWERPUFF GIRLS. Unless you don't want to think of an actress named Tara Strong when you're watching Ben or Bubbles - does that spoil the fun?

(I researched this article on Wikipedia and Tara Strong's official web site and a bunch of other sites. But I asked an adult for permission and advice!)

Write to Johnny DC!

CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK
c/o DC COMICS
1700 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10019

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JOHNNY DC's DC IN DEMAND!

LOOKING FOR LOONEY TUNES? WE STILL PRINT IT, BUT WE RAN OUT OF SPACE TO LIST IT!

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #36
The Question is on the trail again, and this time he's investigating the entire Justice League!

CARTOON NETWORK BLOCK PARTY #36
Bloo wants to get a tattoo of Mac to show the world who his best friend is! Will Mac return the favor?

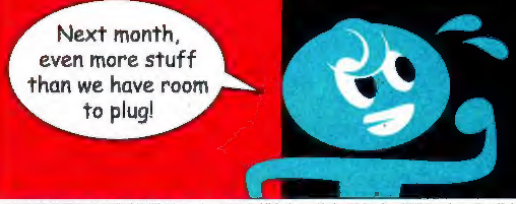
THE BATMAN STRIKES! #36
Batman needs help against Gearhead, even if it means letting Batgirl get behind the wheel of the Batmobile!

SCOOBY-DOO #123
Monsters and mayhem are about to get schooled, and the Scoobs are at the head of the class!

CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK #16
Hang on, Ben! It's high adventure on the open road! Plus, Samurai Jack and the Kids Next Door!

TEEN TITANS GO! #46
It's a family reunion when Starfire's long-lost brother visits Earth. Introducing...Wildfire!

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IN THE 31ST CENTURY #5
What starts as a friendly challenge turns into the storm of the century, pitting Superman against Lightning Lad!



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CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK 16, October, 2007. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CARTOON NETWORK ACTION PACK, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Congers, NY 10920. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) $27.00. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. Printed in Canada. DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company.

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